



## Newsletter Nr 64 – June 2018

Dear Friends of FIAT,

Pope Francis is constantly coming back to God's mercy: mercy to each one of us and mercy as the fundamental attitude of every Christian to his or her neighbor.

In this Newsletter, we offer you some passages from Pope Francis' apostolic letter *Misericordia et miseria* and will show how the Lord embraces his people with immense love and how we are all invited to live and share this love and mercy.

The Gospel proposes a course of action for us, governing our relations with people in distress far and near.

Anchored in the Spirit of the Lord, love carries the invitation to break boundaries: boundaries behind which we have so often barricaded ourselves. But now, we will grow towards a culture of love and mercy, which every man and woman in our world so greatly needs.

In a short text "God is love," Veronica O'Brien, the foundress of the FIAT apostolate, bears witness to this very same basic attitude.

The FIAT team wishes you a beautiful journey through this reading and throughout a beautiful summer.

Maarten Blokken



***"Even today, Jesus is born of Mary and the Holy Spirit".***

+ L.J. Cardinal Suenens

***'What is a christian?'***



When asked what it meant to be a Christian, Cardinal Suenens replied:

***'A Christian in one to whom Jesus Christ has confined others'.***

### ***The culture of mercy – Pope Francis***

Let us make every effort, then, to devise specific and insightful ways of practising charity and the works of mercy. Mercy is inclusive and tends to spread like wildfire in a way that knows no limits. Hence we are called to give new expression to the traditional works of mercy.

For mercy overflows, keeps moving forward, bears rich fruit. It is like the leaven that makes the dough rise (cf. Mt 13:33), or the mustard seed that grows into a tree (cf. Lk 13:19). [n° 19]

We are called to promote a culture of mercy based on the rediscovery of encounter with others, a culture in which no one looks at another with indifference or turns away from the suffering of our brothers and sisters. The culture of mercy is shaped in assiduous prayer, in docility to the working of the Holy Spirit, in knowing the lives of the saints and in being close to the poor.

It urges us not to overlook situations that call for our involvement. We cannot forget the poor: this is an injunction as relevant today as ever, and one that compels by its evangelical warrant. [n° 20]

#### **Read more:**

<https://associationfiat.com/blog/the-culture-of-mercy-pope-francis/?lang=en>

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## *God is so completely: love – Veronica O'Brien*

Asked about the purpose of FIAT, Veronica O'Brien - founder of the FIAT apostolate - replied with these words that go straight to the point:

*My heart rang with one word: LOVE. The final goal of FIAT: Love. Be Love, to know love, to accept to be loved. Such is the plan of God: love.*

*One should never dissociate nature and grace: look at the baby a few weeks old. He or she observes mother and smiles at the sound of her voice. The baby already expressed his or her joy: love. All humans dream of loving and being loved.*

*Love the people around us is the greatest commandment. "Love one another as I have loved you," and you will experience in your heart a growing joy. Jesus told us: "If you follow me, I will give you a joy that no one will rob you." This word of God is true and you can experience it every day.*

*But originally, all this love became distorted by sin; and because today the word love has become synonymous with sin, the dream of genuine love is only possible if we allow God's love to enter into us.*

*This means that we must fight the caricatures of love spread by Satan on a global scale and we need to restore the true meaning of the word love and teach what love is. Let us do all we can to publicize pure love.*

*And so... the vocation of FIAT is to help make love known, which means to be able to love as the very love of God, with all its consequences : all learning to be lovers of the Lord.*

*LOVE, is the battle cry of FIAT.*

***"Whatever the gift that you're willing to present to God, do not forget to entrust it to Mary, because grace goes back to the donor through the same channel that brought it. "***  
***(St Bernard, 12<sup>th</sup> century)***

***The whole FIAT apostolate is based on voluntary work. However the running of the international secretarial office requires some funding. We are very often invited to offer reductions on costs for sending rosaries and various evangelization tools to economically weak countries. We are grateful for financial support.***

**Bank Information: IBAN : BE15 0011 7774 7930**

**BIC : GEBABEBB**

Responsible editor:

Roger Matthys, FIAT Association asbl - Copyright © 2018  
P/A Diocesaan Pastoraal Centrum, Frederik de Merodestraat 18 - 2800 Mechelen (Belgium)

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